We claim:

1. A computer implemented method of displaying documents accessed in a search or browsing mode, the method comprising:

creating a model of a user's interest;

accessing documents from a source of such documents;

applying the model of the user's interest to the retrieved documents; and

generating information regarding the relevancy of the retrieved documents.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the model comprises a query which is enhanced based on linguistic analysis.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the linguistic analysis comprises syntactic and semantic analysis.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the model comprises a query which is enhanced based on a general interest profile.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the general interest profile is applied equally to documents accessed by the user in both search and browsing modes.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the model of user interest is based at least partially on the user task.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is used to highlight relevant portions of text in the retrieved documents.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the model comprises a query which is enhanced independently of and during the execution of the query by the search engine.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the model comprises a query which is applied to the accessed documents to assess relevance during retrieval of documents from their sources.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein documents are retrieved while a user that generated a query may be performing other tasks.

11. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that causes a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

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12. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

receiving query results from the search engine; and

generating information regarding the relevancy of the query results from the results independent of the search engine.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the information is used to highlight relevant portions of text in the retrieved documents.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein documents are retrieved while a user that generated the query may performing other tasks.

15. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that causes a computer to perform the method of claim 12.

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16. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

creating a context based on a computer user's interests;

receiving query results from the search engine; and

generating information regarding the relevancy the query results from the results independent of the search engine and based upon the context.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each new search within the context results in information being generated for documents identified by such search based upon such context.

18. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

receiving query results from the search engine;

enhancing the query;

accessing documents identified by the query results;

applying the enhanced query to the retrieved documents; and

generating information regarding the relevancy of the retrieved documents based on the enhanced query.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the query is enhanced based on linguistic analysis.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the linguistic analysis comprises syntactic and semantic analysis.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the query is enhanced based on a general interest profile.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the general interest profile is applied equally to documents accessed by the user in both search and browsing modes.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the query is enhanced based on a model of user interest generated independent of search results.

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24. The method of claim 18, wherein the information is used to highlight relevant portions of text in the retrieved documents.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein the query is enhanced during retrieval of documents from their sources.

26. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 18.

27. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

receiving ranked query results from the search engine;

accessing documents identified by the query results;

re-ranking the query results based on information contained in the retrieved documents.

28. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 27.

29. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

receiving ranked query results from the search engine;

augmenting the query; and

re-ranking the query results based on the augmented query.

30. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

receiving query results from the search engine;

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retrieving a document; and

scrolling to a most relevant portion of the retrieved document.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the document is divided into sections, and wherein a relevancy score is generated for each section.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the most relevant portion is the section with the highest score.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein one or more sections overlap other sections.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein each section is a paragraph.

35. The method of claim 31 wherein each section is a sentence.

36. The method of claim 31 wherein each section comprises a predetermined number of lines.

37. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 30.

38. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

receiving query results from the search engine;

retrieving a document identified in the query results; and

extracting names from the document and identifying associated links to such names.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the names comprise names of people or companies.

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40. The method of claim 38 wherein the links are internal to the document.

41. The method of claim 38 wherein the links are external to the document.

42. The method of claim 38 wherein the names are provided in a list next to the query results to help identify the relevance of documents.

43. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 38.

44. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

receiving query results from the search engine;

retrieving a document identified by such query results; and

creating a thumbnail view of the document with portions of the view highlighted based on relevancy of corresponding portions of the document.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the highlighted portions correspond to links back to corresponding portions of text in the document.

46. The method of claim 44 and further comprising enhancing the query.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein the relevancy of the portions is determined based at least partially on the enhanced query.

48. The method of claim 46 wherein the query is enhanced based on linguistic analysis.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein the query is enhanced based on a general interest profile.

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50. The method of claim 46, wherein the query is enhanced during retrieval of documents.

51. The method of claim 44, wherein documents are retrieved while a user that generated the query may performing other tasks.

52. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 44.

53. A computer implemented method of enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine;

receiving query results from the search engine; and

retrieving a document identified by such query results;

identifying relevant portions of the document; and

generating a summary of the document comprising the most relevant portions identified.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the document is divided into sections, and wherein a relevancy score is generated for each section.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein the most relevant portions are the sections with the highest score.

56. The method of claim 54 wherein each section is a sentence.

57. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 53.

58. A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

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a module that sends a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

a module that receives query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves documents identified by the query results;

a module that enhances the query;

a module that applies the enhanced query to the retrieved documents; and

a module that generates information regarding the relevancy of the retrieved documents.

59. The system of claim 58 wherein the query is enhanced based on linguistic analysis.

60. The system of claim 59 wherein the linguistic analysis comprises syntactic and semantic analysis.

61. The system of claim 58, wherein the query is enhanced based on a general interest profile.

62. The system of claim 61, wherein the general interest profile is applied equally to documents accessed by the user in both search and browsing modes.

63. The system of claim 58, wherein the query is enhanced based on a model of user interest generated independent of search results.

64. The system of claim 58, wherein the information is used to highlight relevant portions of text in the retrieved documents.

65. The system of claim 58, wherein the query is enhanced during retrieval of documents.

66. The system of claim 58, wherein documents are retrieved while a user that generated the query may performing other tasks.

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67.   A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that receives query results from the search engine; and

a module that generates information regarding the relevancy of the query results from the results independent of the search engine.

68.   The system of claim 67, wherein the information is used to highlight relevant portions of text in the retrieved documents.

69.   A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that creates a context based on a computer user's interests;

a module that receives query results from the search engine; and

a module that generates information regarding the relevancy of the query results from the results independent of the search engine and based upon the context.

70.   The system of claim 69, wherein each new search within the context results in information being generated for documents identified by such search based upon such context.

71.   A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

a module that receives query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves documents identified by the query results;

a module that enhances the query;

a module that applies the enhanced query to the retrieved documents; and

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a module that generates information regarding the relevancy of the retrieved documents based on the enhanced query.

72. A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

a module that receives ranked query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves documents identified by the query results;

a module that re-ranks the query results based on information contained in the retrieved documents.

73. A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to a search engine separate from the computer;

a module that receives ranked query results from the search engine;

a module that augments the query; and

a module that re-ranks the query results based on the augmented query.

74. A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that receives query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves a document; and

a module that scrolls to a most relevant portion of the retrieved document.

75. The system of claim 74, wherein the document is divided into sections, and wherein a relevancy score is generated for each section.

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76. The system of claim 75 wherein the most relevant portion is the section with the highest score.

77. The system of claim 75 wherein one or more sections overlap other sections.

78. The system of claim 75 wherein each section is a paragraph.

79. The system of claim 75 wherein each section is a sentence.

80. The system of claim 75 wherein each section comprises a predetermined number of lines.

81. A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that receives query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves a document identified in the query results; and

a module that extracts names from the document and identifying associated links to such names.

82. The system of claim 81 wherein the names comprise names of people or companies.

83. The system of claim 81 wherein the links are internal to the document.

84. The system of claim 81 wherein the links are external to the document.

85. The system of claim 81 wherein the names are provided in a list next to the query results to help identify the relevance of documents.

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86.   A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that receives query results from the search engine;

a module that retrieves a document identified by such query results; and

a module that creates a thumbnail view of the document with portions of the view highlighted based on relevancy of corresponding portions of the document.

87.   The system of claim 86 wherein the highlighted portions correspond to links back to corresponding portions of text in the document.

88.   A computer system for enhancing query results provided independent of a search engine, the system comprising:

a module that sends a query to an independent search engine;

a module that receives query results from the search engine; and

a module that retrieves a document identified by such query results;

a module that identifies relevant portions of the document; and

a module that generates a summary of the document comprising the most relevant portions identified.

89.   The system of claim 88, wherein the document is divided into sections, and wherein a relevancy score is generated for each section.

90.   The system of claim 89 wherein the most relevant portions are the sections with the highest score.

91.   The system of claim 89 wherein each section is a sentence.

92.   A computer implemented method of enhancing a query for an independent search engine, the method comprising:

sending a query to an independent search engine; and

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independently modeling the query.

93.   The method of claim 92 wherein the independently modeled query is applied to documents identified by the search engine.

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94.   The method of claim 92 wherein the independently modeled query comprises an enhanced representation selected from the group consisting of an original user description of the query, an augmented query, an original description of an interest profile, an enhanced description of the interest profile, general interest profiles, and a query/interest profile combined with information about the user's task.

95.   The method of claim 92 wherein the independently modeled query is applied to documents accessed in a browse mode.

96.   A method of assessing relevance of documents, the method comprising:
        creating a user interest model;
        analyzing documents accessed independent from a search engine; and
        applying the user interest model to such documents.

97.   The method of claim 96 and further comprising highlighting relevant portions of the documents based on the application of the user interest model to such documents.

98.   The method of claim 96 wherein the user interest model is applied to documents accessed from independent search results, or in a browsing mode.

99.   The method of claim 96 and further comprising enhancing relevant portions of accessed documents for use by a user.

100.   The method of claim 99 wherein the enhancing of relevant documents is selected from the group consisting of document highlighting, document

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scrolling, document thumbnails, document re-ranking, hyperlink relevance assessment, entity extraction, entity relation finding, and document summarization.

101. The method of claim 99 wherein the enhancing of relevant documents is performed as documents are downloaded.

102. The method of claim 101 wherein the enhancing of relevant documents is selected from the group consisting of highlighting all occurrences of query/interest profile terms, scrolling to the first occurrence of important concepts, scrolling to paragraphs with higher density of query/interest profile terms, providing thumbnails highlighting all terms occurrences, and providing thumbnails highlighting paragraphs or portion of the text with various densities of query/interest profile terms.

103. The method of claim 99 wherein the enhancing of relevant documents is performed while documents are downloaded as a background task.

104. The method of claim 101 wherein the enhancing of relevant documents is selected from the group consisting of selective highlighting of occurrences of query/interest profile terms, scrolling to the most relevant passages in the document, providing thumbnails highlighting or relevant passages, document re-ranking/hyperlink relevance assessment based on relevance scoring, entity extraction and entity relation finding, extraction of sentences containing context terms, and generating summaries that contain information from both a context and the document.

105. The method of claim 99 wherein the enhancements are based on a shallow document text analysis or on a deep linguistic and statistical analysis of the document text.

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106. The method of claim 96 wherein the user interest model is selected from the group consisting of an original user's description of a query/interest profile, an augmented query/enhanced description of the interest profile, general interest profiles, and query/interest profile combined with information about the user's task.

107. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that cause a computer to perform the method of claim 96.

108. A method of assessing relevance of documents, the method comprising:

creating a user interest model;

analyzing documents accessed; and

applying the user interest model to such documents to highlight relevant portions of the documents based on the user interest model.